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CIA/OSR /TF 750505 GREEK FORCES IN AEGEAN: FOLLOW-UP MAY 75
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CIA/OSR

TF 750505 5 May 1975

MEMORANDUM

Greek Forces in the Aegean: Follow-up

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Recently acquired information [REDACTED] has provided additional detail concerning the strength of Greek forces on the six major Aegean islands. This information tends to confirm the judgment contained in our 9 April memorandum that a relatively large buildup of these forces has taken place since the Aegean crisis of last spring.

On the basis of the information currently available we estimate that regular military personnel on these islands in early April numbered approximately 22,000 men, and there are indications that additional personnel may have subsequently been deployed. Forces on the islands are equipped with approximately 130 tanks and 120 artillery pieces (75mm and larger), as well as numerous anti-aircraft guns, mortars and recoilless rifles. Of these forces approximately 16,000 men and most of the tanks and artillery have been sent to the islands since last spring's Aegean crisis, with the major part of the reinforcement effort coming after the Cyprus crisis of July and August.

It should also be noted that, in addition to the regular military personnel, the islands also contain National Guard and Gendarmerie forces -- generally averaging a lightly-armed reinforced battalion -- which would play an important role in their defense. The civilian population of the islands would also be called upon to assist in repelling any Turkish invasion and rifles have been allocated for their use.

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Attached is an island-by-island roundup of Greek military forces as we currently estimate them. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] some areas of uncertainty

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do remain. This is particularly true concerning the personnel and equipment of the units which were on the islands prior to the buildup. Many of these units are configured specifically for use there and their organizational structure thus differs from that of units stationed on the mainland. It is also not clear whether the anti-aircraft weapons on the islands are organized in separate battalion-size units or have been incorporated into the other units. Despite such estimative uncertainties, however, we believe that the thrust of the reporting indicates the approximate size and composition of Greek forces on the islands and the extent to which they have been reinforced since last spring.

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Greek Forces on Major Aegean Islands
(National Guard or Gendarmerie units are not included)

Limnos

- command personnel and support units
- 2 light infantry battalions (290th, 224th)
- 2 regular infantry battalions (606th, 625th)
- 1 heavy weapons company (1108th)
- 1 mixed artillery battalion (1st)
- 1 anti-aircraft artillery battalion (probable)
- 1 mixed armor company (1st)
- 10 F-5 aircraft

Estimated current strength 3750

Reinforcement since last spring 2800

Lesbos

- command personnel and support units
- 2 light infantry battalions (221st, 296th)
- 3 regular infantry battalions (523rd, 563rd, 604th)
- 1 heavy weapons company (1106th)
- 1 mixed artillery battalion (2nd)
- 1 anti-aircraft artillery battalion (probable)
- 1 mixed armor company (2nd)
- 1 Raiding Forces company

Estimated current strength 4500

Reinforcement since last spring 2500

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Khios

command personnel and support units
2 light infantry battalions (218th, 297th)
1 regular infantry battalion (528th)
1 heavy weapons company (1102nd)
1 mixed artillery battalion (3rd)
1 anti-aircraft artillery battalion (probable)
1 mixed armor company (3rd)
1 Raiding Forces battalion (minus 2 companies)

Estimated current strength 3300

Reinforcement since last spring 2300

Samos

command personnel and support units
2 light infantry battalions (212th, 298th)
1 regular infantry battalion (619th)
1 heavy weapons company (1107th)
1 mixed artillery battalion (4th)
1 anti-aircraft artillery battalion (probable)
1 Raiding Forces company

Estimated current strength 3100

Reinforcement since last spring 2100

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Kos

command personnel and support units
1 light infantry battalion (295th)
1 regular infantry battalion (582nd)
2 regular infantry companies (detached from
 (581st and 619th battalions)
1 mixed artillery battalion (7th)
1 anti-aircraft artillery battalion (probable)
1 mixed armor company (5th)
1 Raiding Forces company

Estimated current strength 2800

Reinforcement since last spring 2100

Rhodes

command personnel and support units
3 light infantry battalions (211th, 294th, 299th)
2 regular infantry battalions (581st, 573rd -
 each minus a company)
1 heavy weapons company (100st)
1 mixed artillery battalion (6th)
1 anti-aircraft artillery battalion (probable)
1 mixed armor company (6th)
1 Raiding Forces battalion (minus a company)

Estimated current strength 4400

Reinforcement since last spring 3000

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